

# Criminal Justice Team - Adult

Lancaster County Substance Abuse Action Coalition

5/19/04

**A. PRESENT WERE:** Lynn Buchanan, St. Monica's, Aimee Baade, US Public Defender's Office, Joe Kelly, County Attorney's Office, Brenda Fischer, County Jail, Steve Rowoldt, County Probation, Bud Christensen, Dennis Keefe, Public Defender, Otto Schultz SAAC, Kim Etherton, Community Sentencing Alternatives, had a schedule conflict

<b>B. NEXT MEETING Scheduled for June 22 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. 555 So. 9<sup>th</sup> St.</b>
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**C.** Steve Rowoldt explained that **THREE MAJOR EVENTS** are happening that will affect handling of offenders with substance use disorders.

**First:** Nebraska Health and Human Services Department is applying for \$15 million per year for 3 years. This money would go into a system for vouchers for indigent offenders.

**Second:** the Standardized model for evaluation will be in place starting in July throughout the State. All substance abuse agencies working with offenders will use the ASI (Addiction Severity Index) for adults and the CASI (Comprehensive Adolescent Severity Index) for youth.

**Third:** Criminal Justice agencies are now using the 17 question (SSI) Simple Screening Instrument. Its results are available on NCJIS (Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System) for all CJ people.

## **D. REVIEW OF PURPOSE**

1. We want to create a seamless system for offenders out of several disparate groups. There are public and private substance abuse service systems and they handle their clients differently. Conflicts arise between CJ and SA systems because CJ is black and white (e.g. the offender relapsed so lock him up like it says in the order.) The SA system tends to be more grey (e.g. the patient relapsed so what we do next all depends on a variety of factors.)
2. Lancaster County Substance Abuse Action Coalition (SAAC) is the community planning entity for substance abuse. Three teams make up this coalition. Treatment, Prevention and Criminal Justice. This team is the Criminal Justice – Adult.
3. This group can be a forum for issues.
4. It can identify and address situations in which offenders fall through the cracks in the system.
5. It can move toward the creation of a seamless system that protects public safety and helps offenders get their lives together.

## E. INTRODUCTIONS

1. **Steve:** there are 2,000 people on probation, guess 75% Substance Abuse problems, and they usually get screened.
2. **Joe:** There are 70 people in Adult Drug Court. "We don't know if we need to keep this program long term and whether it is cost effective.
3. **Aimee:** US PD has 90%+ clients need treatment. They work closely with pretrial and pay for evaluations. They have about 80-90 clients with 50 to 80 involved in substance abuse.
4. **Lynn:** Clinical Director of St. Monica's. They deal with adult women in drug court. They also have a Federal Contract. About 80% of their clients are in CJ system.
5. **Brenda:** County Corrections has 350-400 offenders a day. 80-85% with SA issues. Many are also dually diagnosed. They facilitate groups coming in to do AA meetings. They make space and time for evals. There are lots of referrals out. Offenders typically have to be on a waiting list. Then timing becomes a problem.
6. **Dennis:** PD's office - They take care of 6,000 - 7,000 cases a year. Large proportions are SA problems, often, DUI's. Their lawyer's make referrals.
7. **Bud:** Serves a congregation at the penitentiary and a bridge program for newly released prisoners. They have 13 to 15 at a time with 4-6 per month. Try to get them independent within 3 months.

## F. SOME ISSUES: Stated in rough form

1. Should federal and state systems communicate more when they are both dealing with the same offender?
2. Things happen now on an ad hoc basis, we are fragmented.
3. On the inside 100's of guys are waiting for 18 months or more to get into treatment.
4. Parole system is unconnected to corrections.
5. Treatment inside Federal Bureau of Prisons does not appear to be successful.
6. There is no formal process to connect agencies.
7. What happened to the Pre-Trial Release Program? Kim Etherton may know.
8. There is a Mental Health Jail Diversion program.
9. Federal Judge said, "No treatment for people who have pled guilty. They must be in treatment before they plead
10. Sometimes judges appear to micro-manage a case.
11. Pre trial detainees - They are recommended for treatment, but they are on a waiting list.

## G. PEOPLE WE NEED

People We Need To Bring To the Table:

Tim Conner of Federal pre-trial  
Dave Goehring, Federal Probation  
Steve will talk to Judge Flowers and Judge Yardley.

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